Military Co-operation between India and the US

652. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the military co-operation between India and the US is under renewal process;

(b) if so, by when it would be renewed;

(c) whether any agreement has been made recently for our defence ties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Military cooperation between India and the US has been renewed through a number of exchange of visits and high level policy dialogues, including the visit of Secretary of Defence of US to India in November, 2001 and the visit of Raksha Mantri to US in January, 2002. Strengthening of the Defence cooperation ties between India and US is an ongoing process and no specific time-frame can be assigned for this purpose.

(c) During the January 2002 visit of Raksha Mantri to the US, an agreement was signed between the Government of India and the Government of USA for the protection of classified military information which may be shared between the two countries.

(d) The above is only a general agreement to ensure adequate security of such classified military information as may be decided to be shared by each country.

Test firing of Trishul

653. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trishul was again test fired on January 30th, 2002; and

(b) the main features of this missile and the reasons and the results of test firing the same?